

BUTTERFLIES IN NORTHERN GREECE:
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In late July and early August 1980 we were able to revisit some of the areas in Northern Greece where we had collected on previous occasions earlier in the year (Dacie *et al.*, 1979). Based at Kallikratia, near Thessaloniki, we travelled first via the Mount Olympus area to Kastoria in N. W. Greece where we collected in the mountains near-by on the 23rd July. On the 29th July we collected in the hills north of Alexandroupolis; on the 30th July we set out for Drama, travelling by way of Komotini, Xanthi, Stavroupolis and Paranestion, undertaking some wayside collecting en route. On the 31st July and 1st August we collected in two mountainous areas north of Drama. We revisited the Kastoria area on the 5th and 6th August and the mountains near Florina on the 7th August and finally collected en route from Florina to Thessaloniki on the 8th August. In all we noted 123 species. The following were of the greatest interest to us.

Papilionidae

Parnassius apollo L. A few specimens were seen near Kastoria.

Pieridae

Pontia chloridice Hübner. A few worn specimens were seen in the dry scrub-covered hills north of Alexandroupolis on the 29th July, where we had found the species to be quite common in fresh condition on the 30th June 1978.

Colias libanotica heldreichii Staudinger. Worn specimens were not uncommon, flying in association with *Pseudochazara cingovskii* Gross (see below), in a steep rocky area near Kastoria at about 1000 m. We noted the presence of its foodplant *Astragalus parnassi* Boiss.

Colias balcanica Rebel. A few worn specimens were captured in an open sub-alpine meadow near Florina at about 1700 m.

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Lycaenidae

Agrodiaetus damon D. and S. A large colony in fresh condition was found in an open sub-alpine rocky terrain in the mountains near Kastoria at about 1400 m.

Lysandra coridon Poda. This species was found to be common and widely distributed and was noted from Mt. Olympos, near Xanthi, north of Drama, near Kastoria and near Florina. Males were in fresh condition and only a few females were seen; one was blue (? *syngrapha* Kefestein).

Nymphalidae

Apatura ilia D. and S. A few specimens were seen in two localities near Kastoria. One female *f. clytie* was netted.

Neptis sappho Pallas. One specimen was netted north of Drama where two specimens had been seen on the 30th June 1976. Two further specimens were caught between Xanthi and Paranestion at about 250 m. This species clearly is established in Northern Greece.

Satyridae

Melanargia russiae japygia Cyrillo. A colony of this species, mostly rather worn, was found in a sub-alpine flowery meadow in an open mountainous area near Florina at about 1700 m, flying with many other species, including *Boloria graeca* Staudinger, *Colias balcanica* Rebel and *Erebia ottomana* Herrich-Schäffer.

Neohipparchia statilinus Hufnagel. This species was identified in only one locality — a dry stony upland area between Florina and Edessa where *H. delattini* Kudrna had been caught in early July 1976. *Neohipparchia fatua* Freyer seems to be much more widely distributed. We identified colonies of the species near Thessaloniki, Alexandroupolis, Drama and Kastoria.

Pseudochazara cingovskii Gross. This species was found in fair to fine condition to be not uncommon flying over relatively open steep rocky slopes of scrub and scree in a localized area in the mountains near Kastoria at about 1000 m. The insects appear to be identical with those caught by Brown further south on Mount Smolikas and named ssp. *tisiphone* (Brown, 1980).

Erebia euryale Esper. We found a colony of this species in fresh condition in a clearing in a mainly coniferous forest in a mountainous locality north of Drama at about 1450 m.

Erebia aethiops Esper. A colony of this species was found on a more open mountainous grassy terrain at a slightly lower altitude a few km. from the colony of *E. euryale* Esper. We caught *E. oeme* Hübner in late June 1978 in the same area.

Erebia ottomana Herrich-Schäffer. A large colony of this species was found in an open sub-alpine meadow in a mountainous area near Florina at about 1700 m. Almost all the specimens netted were found to be worn.

Hesperiidae

Pyrgus cinerae Rambur. This fine species in fairly fresh condition was found to be widely distributed and not uncommon in the Kastoria area; it was also identified near Kirotos, en route between Mt. Olympos and Kastoria.

Pyrgus armoricanus Oberthur. This was the commonest *Pyrgus* species; we identified it almost everywhere we collected between Alexandroupolis and Kastoria.

Hesperia comma L. This species appears to be widely distributed but only scattered specimens were seen. We noted it on Mt. Olympos, north of Drama and near Kastoria.

References

- Brown, J., 1980. On the status of a little known Satyrid butterfly from Greece. *Entomologist's Rec. J. Var.*, **92**: 280-281.
 Dacie, J. V., Dacie, M. K.V., Grammaticos, P., Higgins, L. G., & Higgins, N., 1979. Butterflies in Northern Greece: June – July, 1978. *Entomologist's Rec. J. Var.*, **91**: 311-314.

Rearing and Studying the Praying Mantids by G. L. Heath. Cover and 15pp. (including 7 black and white plates). Amateur Entomologists' Society Leaflet No. 36, 1980. Obtainable from A. E. S. Publications, 4 Steep Close, Green Street Green, Orpington, Kent BR6 6DS. Price £1.50 plus 20p post.

According to the author there are many different species of mantis, and that breeding them presents a continual challenge, because what suits one species may not suit another. For this reason he suggests that breeders should keep precise records of the results of their breeding experiences as the information on the subject is limited.

The author describes in this pamphlet methods for species that he has successfully bred, and treats of the subject under the headings of General Description, The Ootheca, Sources (of mantis material), Care of Oothecae, Nymphs, Adults and Types of mantis likely to be encountered.